

171. (New) The method of claim 170, wherein the mathematical programming model is a goal programming model.

172. (New) The method of claim 170, wherein the mathematical programming model is a goal programming model and the mathematical programming solution technique is a linear programming solution technique.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 to 166 were pending in the application. Claims 124, 141, 160 and 163-166 have been amended to correct typographical errors and to more correctly claim the invention. New claims 168-172 have been added. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Early examination and notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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**REISSUE APPLICATION NO. 09/706,194**  
**MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS**

124. **(Amended)** A method for determining an optimum travel scheme for minimizing travel costs for traveling a plurality of travel links being served by a plurality of travel carriers by selectively allocating travel trips on each link to the carriers serving the link, comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining travel information representative of the links and the carriers serving the links;
- (b) determining constraints on allocating the trips to the carriers;
- (c) prospectively allocating the trips among the carriers in accordance with the travel information and the constraints to provide a travel scheme;
- (d) determining a cost of the travel scheme of step (c);
- (e) ascertaining whether any of the travel information or constraints [have] should be changed;
- (f) if any of the travel information or constraints have changed, then repeating steps (c), (d), and (e) until the optimum travel scheme minimizing the travel costs in accordance with the travel information and the constraints is determined; and
- (g) generating a report representative of the optimum travel scheme.

141. **(Amended)** A method for determining an optimum travel scheme for traveling a plurality of travel links being served by a plurality of travel carriers, comprising the steps of:

- (a) determining travel information representative of the travel links and the travel carriers serving the travel links;
- (b) determining constraints on allocating travel trips to the travel carriers; and
- (c) [prospectively] allocating the travel trips among the travel carriers in accordance with the travel information and the constraints[;] to provide the optimum travel scheme.
- [(d) generating a travel scheme.]

160. **(Amended)** An article of manufacture for determining an optimum travel scheme for minimizing travel costs for traveling a plurality of travel links being served by a plurality of travel carriers by selectively allocating travel trips on each link to the carriers serving the link,

the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium holding computer-executable instructions for performing a method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining travel information representative of the links and the carriers serving the links;

(b) determining constraints on allocating the trips to the carriers;

(c) prospectively allocating the trips among the carriers in accordance with the travel information and the constraints to provide a travel scheme;

(d) determining a cost of the travel scheme of step (c);

(e) ascertaining whether any of the travel information or constraints [have] should be changed;

(f) if any of the travel information or constraints have changed, then repeating steps (c), (d), and (e) until the optimum travel scheme minimizing the travel costs in accordance with the travel information and the constraints is determined; and

(g) applying the optimum travel scheme to minimize travel costs by purchasing travel trips in accordance with such optimum travel scheme.

163. **(Amended)** The method of claim 141 further comprising:

[(e)] (d) determining a cost of the travel scheme [of step (d)].

164. **(Amended)** The method of claim 163 further comprising:

[(f)] (e) ascertaining whether any of the travel information or constraints [have] should be changed; and

[(e)] (f) if the travel information or constraints have changed, repeating steps (c)[,] and (d), [and (e)] until an optimum travel scheme minimizing the travel costs in accordance with the travel information and the constraints is determined.

165. **(Amended)** The method of claim 164 further comprising:

[(h)] (g) generating output data representative of the travel scheme.

166. **(Amended)** An apparatus for determining an optimum travel scheme for traveling a plurality of travel links being served by a plurality of travel carriers, comprising the

steps of:

(a) means for determining travel information representative of the travel links and the travel carriers serving the travel links;

(b) means for determining constraints on allocating travel trips to the travel carriers; and

(c) means for prospectively allocating the travel trips among the travel carriers in accordance with the travel information and the constraints [;] to provide the optimum travel scheme.

[(d) means for generating a travel scheme.]